GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3839
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2016
Delay/Disruption of Flights
Roy Prof. Saugata;Vellaigounder Shri Elumalai

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken necessary precautionary measures for the smooth operation of flights from the airports, especially from New Delhi during the winter season to avoid the disruptions due to fog and other reasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of flights cancelled/delayed/diverted due to fog and other reasons during the last three years and the current year, airline/ year-wise;

(c) the reasons for the disruptions on every winter season even after installation of new equipments and use of advanced technologies at airports;

(d) whether this issue can be addressed effectively, if older aircraft in fleet of airlines are replaced with new ones, if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) the details of older aircraft being used by Air India at present; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to ensure smooth operation of flights?

Answer

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati)

(a) & (b) The Directorate general of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued the following instructions to all the scheduled airlines with a view to minimize the inconvenience to traveling passengers and to ensure safety of operation during Low Visibility Period:-;

- Close monitoring and planning of flights as per weather forecast with proper coordination with dedicated teams of IMD/DGCA/AAI/DIAL.

- In case of low visibility/fog forecast, flights not to be planned for Delhi during zero visibility condition and flight may be rescheduled from the point of origin.

- Only CAT-III aircraft to be scheduled during fog hours along with CAT-III trained flight crew, i.e., P1 & P2 as per visibility condition/RVR.

- Non CAT-II compliant aircraft will have to be rescheduled between 1000 hours to 2000 hours.

- Prior information to be given to passengers regarding change of flights/schedule, if any.

- In case of flight delays the passengers to be taken care as per the provisions of the Civil Aviation Requirements.

- All other conditions contained in Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) 11 of 2009 should be strictly adhered to.

Airline wise details pertaining to the number of flights cancelled & delayed during 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 (Up to October 2016) is placed at Annexure -1.;;

With regard to flight diversion, it is stated that during the period from 01 Dec 2015 to 31 Jan 2016, there had been 25 diversions (13 International and 12 Domestic) at IGI Airport compared to 59 diversions (27 International and 32 Domestic) in the corresponding period of the previous year. Data prior to December 2014 is not available.
;
(c) There is a limitation for visual range even for advanced equipment. For example CAT IIIB equipped aircraft have limitation of 50 m visual range and CAT II aircraft have a minimum visual range of 300 m. Hence flights can get disrupted even with advanced aircraft equipped with these systems when the visibility goes below these limits.; ;

(d) The problem can be minimized depending on the feasibility of equipment installation and their certification as per Rule. It has no correlation with the age of the aircraft.
;
(e) The details of older aircraft with 20 years or more being used by Air India at present are attached as Annexure 2;;

(f) DGCA has issued Air Transport Circular 02 of 2013 on "Procedure to be followed to mitigate flight delays" and AIC 11 of 2009 on "Guidelines for aircraft operations during low visibility conditions at IGI Airport, Delhi" to ensure smooth operation of flights during low visibility period.